

The Normani Conquest

61

be dwell on; to the Papacy it meant
that after
centuries of contention the lower
peninsula was
in the possession of a metropolis which
promised to be
faithful to St. Peter, which might he
counted on to
expel Greeks and Moslems from every
corner of the
land, and to bring it under the Holy
See and into
conformity with the Western Church,
Again,
the Reformed Papacy cherished the
hope, that
Italy might be freed from foreign
influence; there
seemed a prospect in the north that
every Roman-
journey of the Western Emperor would
find
Lombardy find Tuscany more hostile and
intransi-
gent; add to that, the Normans,
already half
local lords and now made loyal children of
St. Peter,
would build up a native power in
Lower Italy
which would contest till foreign
claims. Again,
the Normans were matchless fighters;
the Papacy
hoped to draw from the tumult at
every moment
of danger in Henry and Eustace to defy
Germany,
and crush the Roman nobles.*
The unfortunate Gisulf was now
abandoned.
But Guiscard hit in 1058 married the
Prince of
Salerno's sister, Sigelgith,
repudiating the Nor-
man Altwrad. Sigelgith was a woman
of great

beauty, wintlom, and amrngf, a fit mate
for the
Norman, whom,* every nnthitson she
settmitt to have
shared frtmi thin tinu». For her stikes
Robert put n
stop to the AtttickM of William and «>ther
Cret*la«ees
and leaving Hulerno for the time secure
turned to
the expulsion of the Gr<fks. Hy ^{tnt*}
tniddlitt of
1060 the Bymntine.H held on thr Ajmlian
<'oast only